

eral history of the globe a connecting link between deposits considerably more than four thousand miles apart. I may add that, during the last few years, I have been able to place in my little museum, beside its Silurian fossils of America and England, a not less ample collection of the Silurian fossils of our own country, which, though still inadequate, contains several rare organisms, with which, so far as is yet known, the English deposits could not have supplied me. Still, however, much remains to be done in this curious field. I was shown only a few weeks ago, by a gentleman from the neighborhood of Lesmahagow, a fossil crustacean, derived, he said, from the Grauwacke of that neighborhood, which, so far as I could judge, in its rather indifferent state of preservation, is new to Scotland, and which very considerably resembles that *Hymenocaris* of North Wales which Sir Roderick describes in his "Siluria" as a true primordial fossil. And where the crustacean occurs, it is more than probable that other organisms will yet be found.

The Lower Old Red Sandstone of Scotland has been more thoroughly wrought out than perhaps any of the other formations of the country, and it occupies, in consequence, a larger space in my collection. I have not yet found fossils in the Great Conglomerate, which forms its base; nor, perhaps, could organisms, save of the most robust structure, be expected in a rock formed of great water-rolled pebbles, which, ere they could have assumed their present rounded forms, must have been tossed by the storms of ages. In the pebbles themselves, however, we have curious glimpses afforded us of the old metamorphic rocks of Scotland; which were, we find, considerably different in the group from the rocks of similar origin that in the present age of the world compose our great Highland nucleus. The schistose gneisses, now the prevailing metamorphic rocks of the kingdom,—for they occupy nearly ten thousand square miles of its area,—were then but feebly developed,